

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANILA 05694 011027Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /065 W

----- 120583

R 010744Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2842

UNCLAS MANILA 5694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT

SUBJ: AQUINO

1. PERPETUATION OF EVIDENCE HEARINGS ON AQUINO RESUMED BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNAL APRIL 30, WITH AQUINO IN ATTENDANCE. TRIBUNAL OVERRULED VIGOROUS OBJECTIONS OF PROSECUTOR TO AQUINO'S PRESENCE. DURING INTERPLAY ON THIS ISSUE, PROSECUTOR DESCRIBED AQUINO'S FAST AS DESIGNED FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE PURPOSES WHEREAS AQUINO STATED HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY RELIGIOUS PERSONS THAT HIS ACTION IS MORAL. COURT ALSO OVERRULED PROSECUTOR'S ARGUMENT THAT AQUINO WAS IN NO CONDITION TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF HIS FAST, ACCEPTING AQUINO STATEMENT: "FOR AS LONG AS I HAVE THE STRENGTH, IT IS MY WISH TO BE PRESENT IN THESE PROCEEDINGS." HEARING WAS PUBLIC, AQUINO'S WIFE AND CHILD ATTENDED, PRESS DID REFER TO FACT AQUINO WAS ON 25TH DAY OF STRIKE AND NOT SHOWING DANGER SIGNS. PRESS DID NOT, HOWEVER, CARRY IDENTIFIABLE PICTURE OF AQUINO.

2. DURING HEARING, AQUINO PLANNED TO READ STATEMENT EXPLAINING PURPOSE OF HIS ATTENDANCE AT HEARINGS. STATEMENT SUBSEQUENTLY CIRCULATED AROUND MANILA MAKES THREE POINTS. FIRST POINT STATES THAT HE DOES "NOT WISH TO LEND ANY SEMBLANCE OF CREDIBILITY TO CHARGE OF PROSECUTION THAT PURPOSE OF MY HUNGER STRIKE IS TO DELAY TAKING OF TESTIMONY OF STAR WITNESS OF MR. MARCOS." SECOND POINT STATES UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT "NOW MR. MARCOS HAS ACCOMPLISHED HIS PROPAGANDA OBJEC-

TIVE, I WANT OUR PEOPLE AND WHOLE WORLD TO SEE, THROUGH MY SACRIFICE, TRAGIC MEANING OF "JUSTICE" UNDER MARTIAL LAW. MR. MARCOS WHO HAS NOTHING BUT CONTEMPT FOR THOSE WHO ONE BY ONE YEILDED TO HIS BRAZEN USURPATIONS, MUST BE MADE TO REALIZE THERE ARE STILL FILIPINOS WHO ARE WILLING TO OFFER THEIR LIVES FOR FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND TRUTH". THIRD POINT STATES "LET MY PRESENCE HERE, FROM HERE ON, BE HAUNTING REMINDER TO MR. MARCOS THAT TRY AS HE MUST, HE WHO IS PROSECUTOR AND REAL JUDGE OF HIS OWN CHARGES AGAINST ME, CAN NEVER EVADE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY FATE OR WASH HIS HANDS OF MY BLOOD." STATEMENT NOT CARRIED IN PRESS EXCEPT CONCLUDING REMARK REFERRING TO DESIRE BE PRESENT IN HEARINGS. STATEMENT BEING POUCHED. SULLIVAN

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